



Crop Progress and Condition

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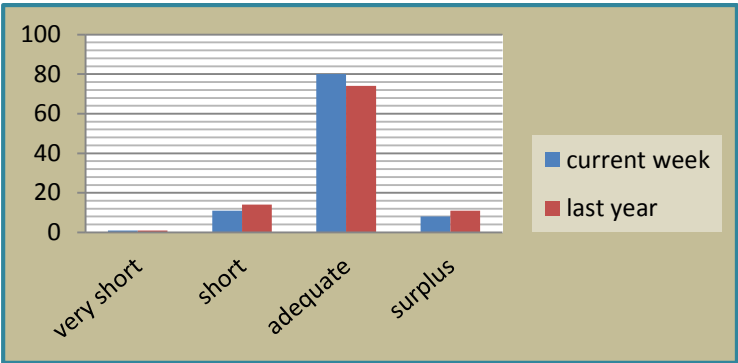
Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.5. Farmers are watching the weather conditions as frost is predicted. The rain received this week has helped with pasture conditions, but there is concern over the slow grass growth from the recent cold and dry weather. Farming activities for the week included spraying herbicides and applying fertilizers, and making preparations for planting corn.

SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 04/03/16

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	1	11	80	8
Subsoil	-	9	88	3

- Represents zero

TOPSOIL MOISTURE for week ending 04/03/16



CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 04/03/16

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Apples	-	-	21	79	-
Grapes	-	-	16	84	-
Peaches	-	-	22	78	-
Barley	-	2	24	66	8
Oats	-	-	34	58	8
Potatoes, Summer	-	-	9	91	-
Tobacco, Greenhouse	-	-	9	9	82
Hay, Alfalfa	-	-	24	71	5
Hay, Other	1	2	28	65	4
Winter wheat	-	2	22	66	10
Pasture	3	15	33	42	7
Livestock	1	9	22	57	11

-Represents zero.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 04/03/16

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Potatoes, Summer planted	10	-	25	-
Tobacco, Greenhouse seeded	28	-	57	46

- Represents data not available.

Weather Summary- For the week ending April 03, 2016

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Apr. 2	Mar. 1 to Apr. 2 norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	66	45	76	34	56	6	269	148	1.40	3.86	-0.20	11.15	0.43
Norfolk	69	52	83	42	61	9	314	165	1.96	4.16	-0.17	15.03	3.47
Richmond	69	48	79	35	59	7	292	181	0.66	1.47	-2.85	9.12	-1.73
Roanoke	67	47	80	37	57	6	294	NA	0.52	2.39	-1.66	10.62	0.21
Wash/Dulles	67	44	82	27	56	9	256	NA	0.52	1.55	-2.23	9.80	0.20

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY – Comments are based on remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

CLARKE (Bobby Clark)

Pastures appear to be about 10 days ahead of schedule. This may change if it stays cold.

ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)

Strong winds are keeping the soil surface dry. The first mowing of small grains occurred last week.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Beef cattle feeding continues with adequate supplies remaining.

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

Warm temperatures started the week, but a cold front with light rain and high winds ended the week. Field operations are slightly ahead of schedule with some early spraying being accomplished in March.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Laura Siegle)

We experienced warm temperatures and good fieldwork conditions for the first half of the week, followed by some timely rainfall Friday going into the weekend.

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

All crops appearing healthy and good. Lack of rain for the past two weeks has caused the topsoil to become dry, but the rain on 4/1 recharged the soil moisture.

FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Warm weather has led to bud break on many fruit crops, including peach and apple trees and grape vines. The forecast of a hard freeze this coming week is bad news for growers.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Peaches are completing bloom. Apples are beginning to bloom, wine grapes are budding out and are susceptible to cutworm and flea beetle injury at this time.

EASTERN

CHARLES CITY (John Allison)

Cold weather is holding back corn planting.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Windy conditions hampered some spray efforts during the week as farmers continued to attempt to finish up topdressing wheat and preparing for corn planting. There is concern about what effects the upcoming predicted cold conditions will have on the small grain crop. A few producers started planting corn.

SOUTHWESTERN

BUCHANAN (William Bradley “Brad” Mullins)

Very dry March. Grass is slow coming this spring. Got 5 - 6 tenths of an inch of rain on March 31st. Very windy this last week.

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Temperatures were well below freezing the evening of April 2.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Cool temperatures combined with drier than normal soils continue to hamper grass growth causing concerns with sheep and cattle producers. Strawberry crop continues to look strong, with end of April targeted for initial harvest.

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Predicted cool weather may threaten fruit crops on all species.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Tazewell County has been unseasonably dry for March. Top layer of soil is dry and dusty from winter time mud.

SOUTHEASTERN

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)

Rain has kept fields too wet for tillage this week. Pastures are growing abundantly with ample temperatures and moisture. Farmers are making final adjustments to equipment as corn planting is likely to begin this first full week in April.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

With frost predicted this week corn planters are still parked. Herbicide sprays and fertilizers are being applied.